R E P O R T R E S U M E S

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THE COLLECTION AND UTILIZATION OF STUDENT BIOGRAPHICAL DATA BY JUNIOR COLLEGES.

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STUDIES RECEIVED BY THE CLEARINGHOUSE DEALING WITH STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS INCLUDE RESEARCH BASED ON STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRES, ON STUDENT RECORDS, AND ON REVIEWS OF LITERATURE. DATA ARE REPORTED BOTH GRAPHICALLY AND IN TABULAR FORM, ACCOMPANIED IN MOST CASES BY NARRATIVE COMMENT. GREATER FREQUENCY IS NOTED IN UTILIZATION OF TOTAL STUDENT POPULATIONS THAN OF SAMPLES OF THE STUDENT BODY, AND BASIC SOCIOECONOMIC DATA ARE INCLUDED IN ALMOST ALL STUDIES. TWO OF THE STUDIES UTILIZED ATTITUDINAL SCALES AND THIS RESEARCH COULD HAVE STRONG IMPLICATIONS FOR PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS AT THE RESPECTIVE COLLEGES. THE STUDIES DO NOT, HOWEVER, INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SPECIFIC PLANNING. FOR THE MOST PART, INSTITUTIONAL STUDY OF STUDENTS' BIOGRAPHICAL CHARACTERISTICS APPEARS TO HAVE AS ITS OVERRIDING PURPOSE THE COMPILATION OF DATA THAT MIGHT BE OF USE TO OTHER GROUPS WITHIN AND WITHOUT THE JUNIOR COLLEGE. (A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF STUDIES SURVEYED IS APPENDED.) THIS ARTICLE WAS PUBLISHED IN "JUNIOR COLLEGE RESEARCH REVIEW," VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2, MARCH 1967. (AL)

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Volume 1, Number 2

JUNIOR COLLEGE RESEARCH REVIEW

March, 1967

A periodical review of research reports received and processed at the Clearinghouse for Junior College Information

The Collection and Utilization of Student Biographical Data by Junior Colleges

This is the second issue of *Junior College Research Review*, a publication of the Clearinghouse for Junior College Information. The Clearinghouse, located at UCLA, is one of thirteen currently operating within the U.S. Office of Education's Educational Research Information Center (ERIC).

The reports presented in this issue have been selected from those that have been received during the past six months. The Clearinghouse processes only those reports that summarize and collate information. It does not include collections of raw statistical data in its files, except as that data is part of the research reports themselves. We will be pleased to receive for inclusion in the Clearinghouse collection two copies of your recent research studies on any phase of junior college operations.

Sources: To date the Clearinghouse for Junior College Information has received and processed seventeen studies of biographical data on groups of junior college students. Of these studies, eight were produced by junior college research offices, four by junior college counseling centers, and five by various junior college staff members.

Methodology: Eight studies secured requisite data by the use of student questionnaires, seven gained data from student records on file in the junior college, and one reviewed the literature of the field. Twelve studies surveyed the total student population and four used random-sampling techniques.

Biographical data was reported graphically and in tabular form. Narrative comments, in conjunction with data collected, were present in twelve studies; four contained none.

The populations studied in these reports vary widely. Six studies surveyed all students enrolled in the junior college, three studied the freshman class, and two studied nursing students. Other studies examined separately the following groups: mature women students, previously disqualified students, students with reduced class loads, foreign language students, data-processing students, and students enrolled in the college's evening division.

Types of data collected and collated: Certain types of data were included in almost all studies, regardless of the populations surveyed. Fifteen studies reported on the ages of students; thirteen reported high schools attended; ten reported sex; nine reported various test scores; nine included information on the educational goals of students; and seven reported information on student residence. Other data collected included the following:

- Previous college attended
- Current and/or previous grade-point average
- Marital status
- Occupation
- Status as veteran
- Place of birth
- Parent's education and occupation
- Reasons for coming to college
- Number of credits earned to date
- Number of children
- Number of hours worked per week
- College major
- Number of credits taken currently
- Transportation to campus
- Race
- Religious preference
- Sources of financial support

Two reports were markedly different from the others. In one of its studies, Orange Coast Junior College used an experimental form of the Educational Testing Service *College Student Questionnaire*. In this study, scales were design to ascertain: satisfaction with the faculty; satisfaction with the student body; sat-

JC 670 472

isfaction with administrative regulations; satisfaction with the student's major field; study skills and routine; extracurricular involvement; family independence; and levels of liberalism, social conscience, and cultural sophistication.

San Joaquin Delta College included in its student study (JC 66-0172) questions such as the following:

a) What *one person* influenced you most in your decision to attend a junior college?
b) How well do you think your teachers at the junior college know their subject matter?
c) How adequate is the *range* of courses offered at the junior college as preparation for your occupational objective?
d) Is there any person on the staff of this college to whom you feel particularly responsible and who feels particularly responsible to you?

Both studies could be of significance to their respective junior colleges in that they survey areas having strong implications for program modifications. Both might be of interest to the field because of the broad range of questions they ask.

Findings: Based on the limited number of institutional research studies reviewed here, the following may be concluded:

1. Although studies of students enrolled in particular programs often include recommendations for program modification, institutional studies of total junior college student populations typically do not make recommendations for specific planning.
2. Data collected is often compared with other data similarly obtained in earlier studies made at the same institution.
3. Total student populations are studied more often than are samples of the student body.
4. Institutional study of students' biographical characteristics appears to have as its overriding purpose the compilation of data that might be of use to other groups within and without the junior college.

John E. Roueche

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Abstracts of all studies mentioned in *Junior College Research Review* may be obtained from the Clearinghouse on request. Please order by document number, using the tear sheet provided below.

Although we are not yet able to duplicate and distribute complete copies of documents, the collection is available for viewing at the Clearinghouse on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 and 5:00.

Abstracts of documents processed in the ERIC system may be found in *Research in Education,* a publication of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. *Research in Education* may be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. (Single copy, $1.00; annual subscription of 12 issues, $11.00.)

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